

**REMARKS**

Claims 1–4 are pending in this application, with claim 2 being withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended and claims 5–8, 11, 15–63, 72–75 and 77–83 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in previously presented claims 3 and 4 and paragraph [0027] of the original specification. The amendments to claims 3 and 4 remove redundancies. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance in view of at least the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the meaning of the recitation "normal camera operation" is unclear. Applicants amend claim 1 to remove the recitation "the normal camera operation." Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 16, 22, 29 and 59 as allegedly lacking clarity. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the recitation "capable of" is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1 and the rejection of canceled claims 16, 22, 29 and 59 is moot.

Applicants assert that requiring the ability to perform is a positive limitation and that the recitation at least requires a camera that is capable of collaborating shooting. Nonetheless, Applicants amend claim 1 to remove the recitation "capable of." Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,774,935 (Morimoto). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully assert that Morimoto fails to disclose "wherein when the first digital camera detects the instruction from the first controller while the first digital camera is controlled by the second controller, the first digital camera stores the instruction from the first controller and only executes the instruction from the first controller after completion of the control of the first digital camera by the second controller" (emphasis added), as recited in claim 1.

Rather, Morimoto sets the camera function by operating the menu call switch MENU (Morimoto, C9:L54–55). Morimoto discloses that when a MENU key is pressed, the connection mode select menu is displayed (Morimoto, C9:L59–60, Fig. 8). Morimoto then judges whether the "host connect mode" is selected, whether the "master camera mode" is selected, and whether the "slave camera mode" is selected (Morimoto, C9:L60–C10:L6). Under a "master camera mode," the first step (S201 in Fig. 17) is to transmit an operation prohibit command to the slave camera 1' (Morimoto, C10:L9–10). Thus, once camera 1 is set as the master camera and camera 1' is set as the slave camera, all control operations of the slave camera 1' except for only the MENU call key and the power switch PS become invalid and control of the slave camera 1' over itself stops (Morimoto, C8:L8–13).

Importantly, Morimoto does not disclose that, for example, when the operation prohibit command is transmitted to the expected slave camera, while the expected slave camera is controlling itself, that the expected slave camera first stores the operation prohibit command and only executes the command after completion of the expected slave camera controlling itself. Thus, Morimoto fails to disclose "wherein when the first digital camera detects the instruction from the first controller while the first digital camera is controlled by the second controller, the first digital camera stores the instruction from the first controller and only executes the instruction from the first controller after completion of the control of

the first digital camera by the second controller" (emphasis added), as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable in view of Morimoto.

Claims 3 and 4 are also allowable, at least for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional features the claims recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejection.

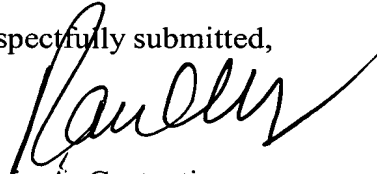
The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,864,911 (Zhang) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,984 (Tanaka); rejects claims 16, 17, 19, 22 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,355 (Niikawa); and rejects claims 59 and 80–83 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,861,918 (Anderson) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0011683 (Yamasaki). These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the propriety of the June 18, 2007 Election of Species Requirement as all of the pending claims directed to the elected invention are in condition for allowance. Because claims 1, 3 and 4 are allowable based on the discussion above, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn claim 2 by virtue of its dependency from allowable independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 22, 2009

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